

Helpful Environmental Justice Communication Tips to Know

1. Listen and be Genuine.
2. *Be respectful - Don't take things personally. The community is under stress.*
3. Be sensitive to language barriers, customs, practices and traditions of diverse populations.
4. *Be Factual.*
5. Become familiar with key community leaders and organizers.
6. *Find a trusted source within the community to help you access community members.*
7. Let the community tell you their needs. Don't decide for them.
8. *Visit the community and attend community meetings if invited.*
9. Be mindful of work hours of EJ community leaders and community members.
10. *Local governments may not have the pulse of unincorporated and rural communities.*
11. Look at untraditional sources for information (churches, daycares, barber shops, community centers, civic organizations, etc.).
12. *Flexibility and creativity will be the best tools in EJ communities.*
13. Make the most of what you have and create networks for what you may need.
14. Use **EISCREEN** to get a better scope of the affected communities.
15. It's alright to say I don't know or I'll find out. Be sure to follow up with an answer.
16. Work with **OEJTIA** on any questions and on long-term action items.

OEJTIA (Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal, and International Affairs): Has EJ oversight responsibility in Region 6; partners with R6 States, Tribes, local officials, other federal agencies, communities, business, and industry to help address existing pollution hazards resulting from environmental decisions and processes, that may affect communities' health and environment.

EISCREEN: EJ screening and mapping tool combining demographics and environmental indicators.